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HALL OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FEBRUARY 15, 1909.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. McCALL, from the Committee on the Library, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. J. Res. 260.]

The Committee on the Library, to whom was referred the report of the Superintendent of the Capitol Building and Grounds on the proposed remodeling of the Hall of the House of Representatives, have considered the same and report the accompanying joint resolution and recommend its passage.

On the 12th of May, 1908, the House passed a resolution directing the Superintendent of the Capitol to consult with architects of repute and experts upon ventilation and acoustics with a view to a rearrangement and reconstruction of the Hall of the House of Representatives, to place it in direct contact with the outer wall or walls of the building, to improve its ventilation and acoustical properties, and to reduce its size, and to report with plans to the Speaker on the first Monday of December, 1908.

Under the said resolution the superintendent has reported with plans to the Speaker, which report and plans have been referred to the Committee on the Library. A copy of said report is hereto appended.

The superintendent presents three schemes, marked "A," "B," and "C." The last scheme need not be considered, as its adoption was not recommended by the superintendent, but was made to show that the subject had been "exhaustedly studied and all possible arrangements for the new hall considered."

Scheme A presents a plan hemicycle in form, after the style of the old Hall of the House of Representatives, now Statuary Hall, and of substantially the same size. While this scheme is preferable architecturally, the superintendent stated to the committee that for all practical purposes scheme B would be as good as scheme A. The acoustic properties of a hemicycle can not be accurately determined in advance of the construction. The acoustics of the old Hall re-

ferred to above were not satisfactory, but this was due very likely to certain details of its structure rather than to its form. But the superintendent is confident that there would be no difficulty regarding the acoustical properties of a rectangular hall as presented in scheme B. Furthermore, the gallery area of the hemicycle is as great as that of the present hall. The committee believe that another objection to the hemicycle scheme would be that we should have side by side in the Capitol two halls of the same type and practically of the same size.

For these reasons, among others, the committee favor scheme B. This plan involves a hall rectangular in shape, like the present Hall of the House, but surrounded by pillars and with other details of treatment which make it architecturally a very great improvement over the present Hall. The following table will give the comparative dimensions and other data as between the existing Hall and scheme B:

Comparative data.

	The existing Hall.	Scheme B.
Greatest length on the floor.....	113½	87
Greatest breadth on the floor.....	67½	64
Length at gallery level.....	159	118
Breadth at gallery level.....	93	115
Area on the floor.....sq. ft.	7,600	5,440
Area at gallery level.....do.	12,927	9,616
Cubic contents, including gallery.....cu. ft.	386,370	259,745
Number of Members' seats.....	393	446
Total cloakroom space, not including present lobby on south front.....sq. ft.	3,441	7,170

The above yields the following results for scheme B, as compared with the existing Hall:

Reduction in area on the floor.....sq. ft.	2,220
Reduction in area at the gallery level.....do.	3,311
Reduction in cubic contents of Hall.....cu. ft.	126,625
Increase in seating.....	53
Increase in cloakroom space.....sq. ft.	3,729

The cost of executing scheme B is estimated at \$375,090.

It will be seen that scheme B affords a reduction in area on the floor level of 2,220 square feet and on the gallery level of 3,311 square feet; that it reduces the entire cubical contents of the Hall from 386,370 feet to 259,745 feet, or almost exactly one-third, and that it increases the cloakroom space by 3,729 feet. Greatly as the Hall would be reduced, it would still remain one-third larger than the Senate Chamber.

The seating arrangements under scheme B would admit of the use of ample individual chairs, as in the Senate, or chairs joined together and continuous between the aisles.

The committee regard the former as preferable. There would also be an extended rack in front of each row of chairs, giving each Member a place upon which to write and a desk, or pocket, large enough to hold several volumes. This scheme moves the Hall to the south and eliminates the corridor directly back of the Speaker's desk. The Hall would then open directly upon the Members' lobby, fronting upon the south portico, and the press gallery would be directly over the present Members' lobby, and the rear of the

press gallery would be along the south front of the House wing, with five windows directly opening into the outer air. From the statement of the superintendent to the committee, it appears that this direct connection of the Hall with the outer air through the press gallery and through the openings connecting the Hall with the present Members' lobby, which itself is connected with the outer air, would meet all reasonable desire for direct ventilation from the outside.

The superintendent expressed the opinion that any further direct connection with the outer air would be objectionable. The artificial system of ventilation would also continue and would be fully as effective as in the present Hall. The Speaker's desk would occupy the same relative position as in the present Hall. Upon the north side of the Hall, in addition to the public corridor, there would be a private lobby running the whole length of the Hall and nearly 30 feet in width, a portion of which could well be used as reception rooms where the Members could see visitors, instead of in the public corridors as is now done.

The cloakroom space at the two ends of the Hall would also be greatly increased, and some of the additional space might be made use of for a reference library. The committee has not attempted to prescribe the exact uses to which the great additional cloakroom space should be devoted, but that could be determined upon by the House itself in some suitable way if it should order the change to be made.

In the opinion of the committee the great advantage of scheme B over the present Hall would be in substituting a hall suited in size for a parliamentary body for a hall which, by reason of its enormous magnitude, can by no possibility be regarded as a suitable place for the deliberations of an assembly transacting business of vital consequence to a great nation. It is only necessary to recall the dimensions of the present Hall. In greatest length it is 139 feet, in breadth 93 feet, and its cubical contents are 386,370 feet. The daily experience of Members demonstrates to every one of them its unfitness, on account of its size, for purposes of deliberation. There is no critic of repute who has written about the House of Representatives who has not commented upon the inordinate dimensions of the Hall of the House and its adverse effect upon debate and deliberation.

Mr. Bryce, in his *American Commonwealth*, gives a lively and yet a correct description of the debating conditions in the House. Speaking of the Hall, he says:

It is more than thrice as large as the English House of Commons, with a floor about equal in area to that of Westminster Hall, 139 feet long by 93 feet wide and 36 feet high. * * * The proportions are so good that it is not till you observe how small a man looks at the farther end, and how faint ordinary voices sound, that you realize its vast size. * * *

When you enter, your first impression is of noise and turmoil, a noise like that of short, sharp waves in a Highland loch fretting under a squall against a rocky shore. The raising and dropping of desk lids, the scratching of pens, the clapping of hands to call the pages—keen little boys who race along the gangways—the pattering of many feet, the hum of talking on the floor and in the galleries, make up a din over which the Speaker with the sharp taps of his hammer, or the orators straining shrill throats, find it hard to make themselves audible. I never heard American voices sound so harsh or disagreeable as they do here. Nor is it only the noise that gives the impression of disorder. Often three or four members are on their feet at once, each shouting to catch the Speaker's attention. * * * Less favorable conditions for oratory can not be imagined, and one is not surprised to be told that debate was more animated and practical in the much smaller room which the House formerly occupied.

Not only is the present room so big that only a powerful and well-trained voice can fill it, but the desk and chairs make a speaker feel as if he were addressing furniture rather than men, while of the Members few seem to listen to the speeches. It is true that they sit in the House instead of running out in the lobbies, as people do in the British House of Commons, but they are more occupied in talking or writing or reading newspapers than in attending to the debate. To attend is not easy, for only a shrill voice can overcome the murmurous roar; and one sometimes finds the newspapers, in describing an unusually effective speech, observe that "Mr. So-and-So's speech drew listeners about him from all parts of the House." They could not hear him where they sat, so they left their places to crowd in the gangways near him. "Speaking in the House," says an American writer, "is like trying to address the people in the Broadway omnibuses from the curbstone in front of the Astor House * * *."

Men of fine intellect and of good ordinary elocution have exclaimed in despair that in the House of Representatives the mere physical effort to be heard uses up all the powers, so that intellectual action becomes impossible. The natural refuge is in written speeches or in habitual silence, which one dreads more and more to break.

It is hard to talk calm good sense at the top of your voice, hard to unfold a complicated measure. A speaker's vocal organs react upon his manner, and his manner on the substance of his speech. It is also hard to thunder at an unscrupulous majority or a factious minority when they do not sit opposite to you, but all around you and behind you, as is the case in the House. The Americans think this an advantage, because it prevents scenes of disorder. They may be right, but what order gains oratory loses. It is admitted that the desks are a mistake, as encouraging inattention by enabling men to write their letters, but though nearly everybody agrees that they would be better away nobody supposes that a proposition to remove them would succeed.

So far as the committee are informed the opinion of writers of repute upon this subject is all one way. But since it has cited a very great British authority, it will now quote from an eminent American writer, President Woodrow Wilson. In his book on Congressional government he says:

There are, to begin with, physical and architectural reasons why businesslike debate of public affairs by the House of Representatives is out of the question. To those who visit the galleries of the representative Chamber during a session of the House these reasons are as obvious as they are astonishing.

It would be natural to expect that a body which meets ostensibly for consultation and deliberation should hold its sittings in a room small enough to admit of any easy interchange of views and a ready concert of action, where its members would be brought into close, sympathetic contact; and it is nothing less than astonishing to find it spread at large through the vast spaces of such a chamber as the Hall of the House of Representatives, where there are no close ranks of cooperating parties, but each Member has a roomy desk and an easy revolving chair; where broad aisles spread and stretch themselves; where ample, soft-carpeted areas lie about the spacious desks of the Speaker and clerks; where deep galleries reach back from the outer limits of the wide passages which lie beyond "the bar:" an immense, capacious chamber, disposing its giant dimensions freely beneath the great level lacunar ceiling through whose glass panels the full light of day pours in. The most vivid impression the visitor gets in looking over that vast hall is the impression of space.

A speaker must needs have a voice like O'Connell's, the practical visitor is apt to think as he sits in the gallery, to fill even the silent spaces of that room; how much more to overcome the disorderly noises that buzz and rattle through it when the Representatives are assembled—a voice clear, sonorous, dominant, like the voice of a clarion. One who speaks there with the voice and lungs of the ordinary mortal must content himself with the audience of those Members in his own immediate neighborhood, whose ears he rudely assails in vehement efforts to command the attention of those beyond him, and who, therefore, can not choose but hear him.

Taking the history of Congress from the beginning, no reason can be found in the relative ability of the membership of the Senate and of the House why debate in the former body should better meet the ends of discussion. Most of the greatest Senators have served for a time, and some of them for many years, in the House of Representatives. Henry Clay made some of his greatest speeches in this body. The same may be said of Webster, and especially with regard to his

speeches on the Greek revolution and the tariff. John Quincy Adams had a very brief career in the Senate and a long and active period of service in the House at a time when his public influence was augmented by the fact that he had been President of the United States.

Many of the notable men in the history of the country have been identified with the House of Representatives and have never served in the Senate. Among the Presidents may be named Madison, Lincoln, Garfield, and McKinley, and among the many other eminent men who served in the House but never in the Senate may be mentioned Fisher Ames, Henry Winter Davis, Thaddeus Stevens, Randolph Tucker, William L. Wilson, and Thomas B. Reed.

In former times, when the House assembled in the smaller Chamber, its debates exercised an influence which they have not enjoyed since it moved into the present Hall, and, as I have said, it is not because the people are in the habit of choosing men of inferior ability to its membership.

Neither Mr. Bryce nor Mr. Wilson has overdrawn the picture in what I have cited from them. Except upon rare occasions, and when the speaker has a powerful or penetrating voice, one can hear little or nothing of what is going on.

A Member is not able ordinarily to hear unless he has a seat near the one who is speaking. There are not a half dozen Members of the House able to make themselves heard throughout the Hall when speaking in a conversational tone, which is the only tone really suited to deliberation. Members are compelled to assume the grand, oratorical style, and to shout and declaim. The committee believe that the adoption of some such plan as that proposed in scheme B is necessary to the highest efficiency of the House of Representatives as a legislative body, and they therefore urge the passage of the accompanying resolution.

[House Document No. 1428. Sixtieth Congress, second session.]

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT,
U. S. CAPITOL BUILDING AND GROUNDS,
Washington, D. C., December 7, 1908.

SIR: On the 12th day of May, 1908, the chairman of the Committee on the Library submitted to the House the following resolution, which was passed:

"Resolved, That the Superintendent of the Capitol Building and Grounds be authorized and directed, under the supervision of the Speaker, to consult with architects of repute and expert upon ventilation and acoustics with a view to a rearrangement and reconstruction of the Hall of the House of Representatives, and to place it in direct contact with the outer wall or walls of the building, and to improve its ventilation and acoustical properties, and to reduce its size, and to report with plans to the Speaker on the first Monday of December, nineteen hundred and eight. The expenses hereunder, not to exceed the sum of five thousand dollars, shall be paid out of the contingent fund of the House."

In accordance with the above resolution I beg to submit herewith the report requested. This report is accompanied by drawings, schedules, and other data, and I beg to state further that, during the consideration of this matter, I have consulted with Messrs. Carrere & Hastings, of New York, the consulting architects of the House and Senate Office Buildings.

The three schemes submitted herewith have been marked, for purposes of identification, as "A," "B," and "C."^a They exhibit two types of auditorium, either of which may be adopted.

Scheme A illustrates a semicircular (hemicycle) hall, similar to Statuary Hall in the Capitol building.

^a Schemes not printed.

Scheme B illustrates a rectangular hall, similar in form to the existing Hall of the House but of smaller dimensions. In this scheme the long dimension of the hall is east and west, as in the existing Hall.

Scheme C also illustrates a rectangular hall, but turned around so its long dimension is north and south, or at right angles with the long dimension of the existing Hall.

These three schemes differ in form and architectural treatment, but they all agree on the following points:

A uniform seating arrangement; a reduction in the size of the Hall, and the moving of the Hall bodily to the south so as to eliminate the corridor back of the Speaker's desk in the existing Hall, in that way bringing the south wall of the new hall as close to the outer wall of the House wing as the limitations of the existing structural and supporting walls will admit.

To facilitate comparisons, there is also presented, as part of this report, a schedule containing the dimensions, areas, seating, etc., of the existing Hall of the House as compared with each of the three schemes presented for its reconstruction.

To further facilitate a comparison of the drawings it may be stated that all have been made to the uniform scale of 10 feet to 1 inch.

During the preparation of the drawings a careful examination was made of a number of documents relating to European legislative halls. These documents, consisting of plans, photographs, etc., were obtained for reference in connection with the study of this subject by the chairman of the Committee on the Library, Hon. S. W. McCall.

The following legislative halls are illustrated in the documents collected by Mr. McCall:

England.—The House of Peers, in London; the House of Commons, in London.

France.—The Chamber of Deputies, in Paris.

Germany.—The Reichstag building, in Berlin; the two Prussian legislative houses, in Berlin.

Belgium.—The Senate Chamber, in Brussels; the Chamber of Representatives, in Brussels.

Austria.—The two legislative halls of the Austrian Parliament, in Vienna.

Italy.—The two legislative halls of the Italian Parliament, in Rome.

Spain.—The Chamber of Deputies, in Madrid.

Holland.—The First Chamber of the States-General, at the Hague; the Second Chamber of the States-General, at the Hague.

Portugal.—The Chamber of Peers, at Lisbon.

Switzerland.—The Hall of the National Council, in Berne.

Greece.—The Meeting Hall of the Parliament of the Hellenes.

All of the studies made for contemplated changes in the present Hall of the House during previous years concerned themselves entirely with the House floor, and apparently did not take into consideration structural questions involved below the floor of the present Hall, the necessity for new foundations, or the probability of any scheme being adopted which would require the reconstruction of the roof over the Hall.

In preparing the present studies, due consideration has been given to all these questions.

It can be definitely stated that no successful scheme for remodeling the Hall of the House can be devised which will avoid the necessity of providing new foundations for at least a portion of the new inclosing walls of the Hall. This will necessarily result in a partial, or total, reconstruction of the interior of the House wing within the limits of the walls surrounding the galleries of the present Hall.

The roof trusses that now span the Hall of the House date from 1854, and it is doubtful if any scheme of reconstructing the Hall could be executed without necessitating new trusses. In order to expeditiously prosecute the work it would probably be necessary to remove the roof. The existing trusses are of such character and material that if they were removed it would very probably be impossible to successfully erect them, and it may therefore be stated that any of the schemes for the reconstruction of the Hall will necessitate a new roof over the center portion of the House wing.

The subjects of ventilation and acoustics and their relation to the proposed change in the Hall of the House may be safely left to present day engineering skill and scientific knowledge, which, I believe, will be fully able to cope successfully with the problems presented.

In the majority of the European legislative halls referred to above the seats are arranged in concentric rows as in the existing Hall of the House. In form these European legislative halls are about equally divided between the hemicycle type and the rectangular type.

The arrangement of seats in concentric rows being so obviously well adapted to the purpose, it has been considered unnecessary to attempt any departure from this plan. The only conspicuous exceptions to the concentric plan of seating among the European halls referred to are the British Houses of Parliament. The seating in these halls consists of rows of straight benches placed around, and parallel to, the inclosing walls of the rectangular rooms. This scheme offers no advantages that would recommend it for the new Hall of the House, and therefore, as intimated above, no plan is presented embodying it.

In determining the area of the proposed new Hall of the House the seating capacity was taken at between 400 and 450 individual seats.

As to the seats themselves, they have been arranged in rows spaced 39 inches from back to back, with a width of 24 inches for each seat. This allows $6\frac{1}{2}$ square feet of actual floor space to each Member, exclusive of aisles, Speaker's desk, etc. The spacing given will permit of a writing space in front of each seat in the form of a continuous ledge secured to the backs of the rows of seats. There is presented herewith a study intended to exhibit the general arrangement of the rows of individual seats, with arms, and the continuous writing ledge.

Attention is particularly called to the fact, as shown by this study, that the proposed seating of the new Hall of the House does not contemplate a system of benches, but consists of a system of individual chairs, coupled together.

The rows of seats in the existing Hall of the House are spaced 60 inches from back to back, with a width of 26 inches. This allows about $10\frac{1}{4}$ square feet of actual floor space to each Member.

The following tabulation will show that while the seating in the proposed new Hall of the House allots less actual floor space to each Member than in the existing Hall, it is, nevertheless, a considerably greater allowance per seat than is considered ample in the most commodious auditoriums:

Auditorium.	Spacing of rows back to back.	Width of each seat.	Actual floor space per seat.
	Inches.	Inches.	Sq. ft.
The existing Hall of the House of Representatives.....	60	26	$10\frac{1}{4}$
The proposed new Hall of the House of Representatives.....	39	24	$6\frac{1}{2}$
The New Theater in New York City.....	$38\frac{3}{8}$	$22\frac{1}{2}$	$7\frac{1}{2}$
The Metropolitan Opera House in New York City.....	32	$27\frac{1}{2}$	$7\frac{1}{2}$
The Manhattan Opera House in New York City.....	32	$25\frac{1}{2}$	$7\frac{1}{2}$

The above data on the seating in the New Theater, the Metropolitan Opera House, and the Manhattan Opera House was obtained through the courtesy of Messrs. Carrere & Hastings, the architects of the New Theater. They state that as a result of the study they made of the seating question in the New Theater they are of the opinion that a width of 24 inches would be a generous allowance for the seats in the new Hall of the House.

Reducing the spacing of the rows of seats in the proposed new Hall will result, of course, in bringing the membership of the House closer together. This result will be obtained, however, without any sacrifice in the necessary working space now allotted to each Member and without interfering with his personal convenience.

The principal gain in space is obtained by the substitution of the continuous writing ledge for the desks in the existing Hall. In addition, the proposed scheme of seats provides one arm between each two adjoining seats instead of two separate arms with a gap between. Thus it will be seen that while a very considerable gain in space is obtained, permitting of a material reduction in the area of the Hall, it is done without in any way lessening the actual size or convenience of the existing seats.

The following is a detailed description of each of the three schemes presented herewith:

SCHEME A.

This scheme, as stated above, embodies the hemicycle form of auditorium. The curved inclosing walls are concentric with rows of seats. All points on the perimeter of the inclosing walls are equidistant from the Speaker's desk. This fact alone marks the hemicycle form as the ideal one for the use of a deliberative body.

The dimensions of scheme A, on the floor, are virtually identical with Statuary Hall in the Capitol Building, the depth of the galleries, however, being greater.

In this scheme, as in the others, the new Hall is moved south so as to eliminate the corridor that is back of the Speaker's desk in the existing Hall. The new Hall would

then open directly on the Members' lobby facing the south portico of the House wing. The lower part of the wall between the new Hall and the Members' lobby on the south would remain, except for the cutting of any new openings that may be required. Through these could be seen the windows opening on the south portico of the House wing. Any glare of light from these windows could be regulated by means of curtains, and in warm weather the windows could be opened, admitting the outside air directly into the Hall.

The upper portion of the division wall referred to would be removed and back of this open space would be placed the Press Gallery, over the Members' Lobby. The accompanying section of the new Hall marked "looking south" shows the effect which will be gained by removing the upper portion of the present wall between the Members' Lobby on the south and the corridor that now exists back of the Speaker's desk. The windows that show on this section will be at the back of the new Press Gallery over the Members' Lobby and are the actual upper windows that now open on the south portico of the House Wing. This removal of the upper portion of the division wall, referred to, will serve to further accomplish the expressed object of opening the new Hall to the exterior light and air.

The moving of the Hall to the south and the use of the hemicycle form would provide a very large semicircular lobby back of, and inclosing, the Hall. While the extent of this lobby is shown on the accompanying drawings of scheme A it has not been subdivided into cloakrooms, retiring rooms, etc. Any desired subdivision of this lobby space can be readily provided for.

The public gallery is directly over the Members' Lobby last referred to and is also inclosed by a circular wall.

The plan of the gallery as shown leaves two large triangular spaces, one in the northeast corner and the other in the northwest corner, back of the gallery inclosing wall. It is designed to utilize these large spaces as light courts, with skylights overhead. This will permit of the introduction of daylight in the corresponding corners of the Members' Lobby below. Because of the large dimensions of these spaces the volume of light will be very considerable. This light can be introduced into the circular Members' Lobby by increasing the door openings shown between it and the triangular spaces.

This plan provides a very largely increased cloakroom and lobby space over the existing accommodations. In addition, the lobby will separate the Hall from the public corridor and will serve the same purpose as the lobby on the north of the Senate Chamber, between the latter and the Marble Room. The lobby will also serve as a sort of vestibule at the north entrance and will relieve the congestion that now frequently occurs at this point.

Comparative data.

	The existing Hall.	Scheme A.
Greatest length on the floor.....feet.....	113½	90
Greatest breadth on the floor.....do.....	67½	66
Length at gallery level.....do.....	139	145
Breadth at gallery level.....do.....	93	112
Area on the floor.....sq. ft.....	7,660	5,028
Cubic contents, including gallery.....cu. ft.....	386,370	298,400
Number of Members' seats.....do.....	393	430
Total cloakroom space, not including present lobby on south front.....sq. ft.....	3,441	7,362
Area at gallery level.....do.....	12,927	15,511

The above yields the following results for scheme A, as compared with the existing Hall:

Reduction in area on the floor of the Hall.....sq. ft.....	2,632
Reduction in area on the gallery level.....do.....	416
Reduction in total cubic contents of the Hall.....cu. ft.....	87,970
Increase in seating.....do.....	37
Increase in cloakroom space.....sq. ft.....	3,921

The cost of executing scheme A is estimated at \$500,000.

SCHEME B.

This scheme illustrates the rectangular form of auditorium. The proportions of the Hall are similar to the existing Hall, but the room is of considerably smaller dimensions. The long dimension of the Hall is placed east and west, the same as in the existing Hall.

This scheme moves the Hall to the south, by eliminating the corridor back of the Speaker's desk, in the same manner as proposed in scheme A, and it also increases the cloakroom space.

In this scheme, as in scheme A, the two tiers of windows that open on the south portico of the House wing will be visible from the interior of the new Hall.

The accompanying drawings show that the rectangular form of auditorium is not so well adapted to the concentric arrangement of seats as the hemicycle form.

Aside from the above criticism, scheme B would admit of perfectly successful architectural treatment and would cost somewhat less to execute than scheme A.

Comparative data.

	The exist- ing Hall.	Scheme B.
Greatest length on the floor.....	113½	87
Greatest breadth on the floor.....	67½	64
Length at gallery level.....	159	118
Breadth at gallery level.....	93	115
Area on the floor.....sq. ft.	7,640	5,440
Area at gallery level.....do.....	12,927	9,616
Cubic contents, including gallery.....cu. ft.	386,370	259,745
Number of Members' seats.....	593	446
Total cloakroom space, not including present lobby on south front.....sq. ft.	3,441	7,170

The above yields the following results for scheme B, as compared with the existing Hall:

Reduction in area on the floor.....sq. ft.	2,220
Reduction in area at the gallery level.....do.....	3,311
Reduction in cubic contents of Hall.....cu. ft.	126,625
Increase in seating.....	53
Increase in cloakroom space.....sq. ft.	3,729

The cost of executing scheme B is estimated at \$375,000.

SCHEME C.

Scheme C illustrates a rectangular Hall, but differs from scheme B in that its long dimension is north and south, while in the other the long dimension is east and west. In other words, scheme C would turn the Hall of the House at right angles to the existing Hall.

The one advantage this scheme seems to offer is that the east wall of the new Hall would be directly over an existing wall in the story below, which latter could be used as a foundation should it be found that it would safely carry the additional weight which would be imposed upon it by the new construction.

In this scheme, as in schemes A and B, the two tiers of windows that open on the south portico of the House wing will be visible from the interior of the new Hall.

Scheme C has several serious objections, practically as well as architecturally.

It will be noticed that in this scheme the Hall is entered on the north immediately from the public corridor without even the small vestibule that now exists being interposed between the two. Further, this entrance is in the center of a short side of the room; it is not opposite the Speaker's desk and is, therefore, in a subordinate location. In actual use there would probably result much annoyance to the Members occupying the seats close to this entrance not only from drafts, but from the disturbing sounds that would enter the Hall from the public corridor each time the door was opened.

With the Speaker's desk on the east wall, as shown on scheme C, and a large Members' lobby immediately back of it, there would naturally be more or less "coming and going" on that side of the room, which would tend to cause confusion and congestion in the vicinity of the Chair.

To overcome the objections due to the abrupt entrance into the Hall on the north, as shown on scheme C, a vestibule, as exists at present, might be introduced. This would necessitate the retention of the existing north wall of the floor of the Hall in order to conceal the vestibule. For the sake of symmetry it would then be necessary to retain the corresponding south wall. This would result in a floor area insufficient to meet the requirements as to seating.

Architecturally, scheme C is faulty. It turns the Hall around sidewise as regards the lines and general conformation of the House Wing and would not have suggested itself as a solution were it not for the fact that certain walls now in place offered themselves as possible supports.

At present the Speaker's desk is on the south in the center of one of the long sides of the Hall, with the main entrance directly opposite, and both are on the north and south axis of the entire Capitol building. The two corresponding locations in the Senate Chamber are in the same relation to each other. This is an arrangement that every consideration of usage and design requires should remain undisturbed.

Scheme C, therefore, can not be recommended.

Comparative data.

	The existing Hall.	Scheme C.
Greatest length on the floor.....feet.	113½	94
Greatest breadth on the floor.....do.	67½	64
Length at the gallery level.....do.	139	112
Breadth at the gallery level.....do.	93	112
Area on the floor.....sq. ft.	7,660	6,016
Area at the gallery level.....do.	12,927	11,950
Cubic contents, including gallery.....cu. ft.	386,370	305,500
Number of Members' seats.....	393	448
Total cloakroom space, not including present lobby on south front.....sq. ft.	3,441	7,068

The above yields the following results for scheme C, as compared with the existing Hall:

Reduction in area on the floor.....sq. ft.	1,644
Reduction in area at the gallery level.....do.	977
Reduction in total cubic contents of Hall.....cu. ft.	80,870
Increase in seating.....	55
Increase in cloakroom space.....sq. ft.	3,627

The cost of executing scheme C is estimated at \$350,000.

Recapitulation of the estimated costs of the proposed reconstruction of the Hall of the House of Representatives as shown on the accompanying schemes A, B, and C.

Scheme A.....	\$500,000
Scheme B.....	375,000
Scheme C.....	350,000

Drawings accompanying this report.^a

Scheme A, plans and sections;

Scheme B, plans and sections;

Scheme C, plans and sections;

A schedule of the dimensions of each scheme as compared with the existing Hall of the House;

A plat on which is shown the plan of the floor of each of the three schemes in its relation to the floor of the existing Hall, together with the existing supporting walls in the story below;

A detail of the proposed scheme of seating in the new Hall of the House.

In conclusion, I beg to suggest that if it is determined to reconstruct the Hall of the House of Representatives, the scheme that is finally executed should be that one which is agreed upon as the best, regardless of the cost.

I am unable to recommend the adoption of scheme C. The drawings illustrating this scheme are of interest as showing that the subject has been exhaustively studied and all possible arrangements for the new Hall considered. Scheme C, however, is not so well adapted to the requirements of the House as the two others, and, as stated above, it embodies serious faults architecturally.

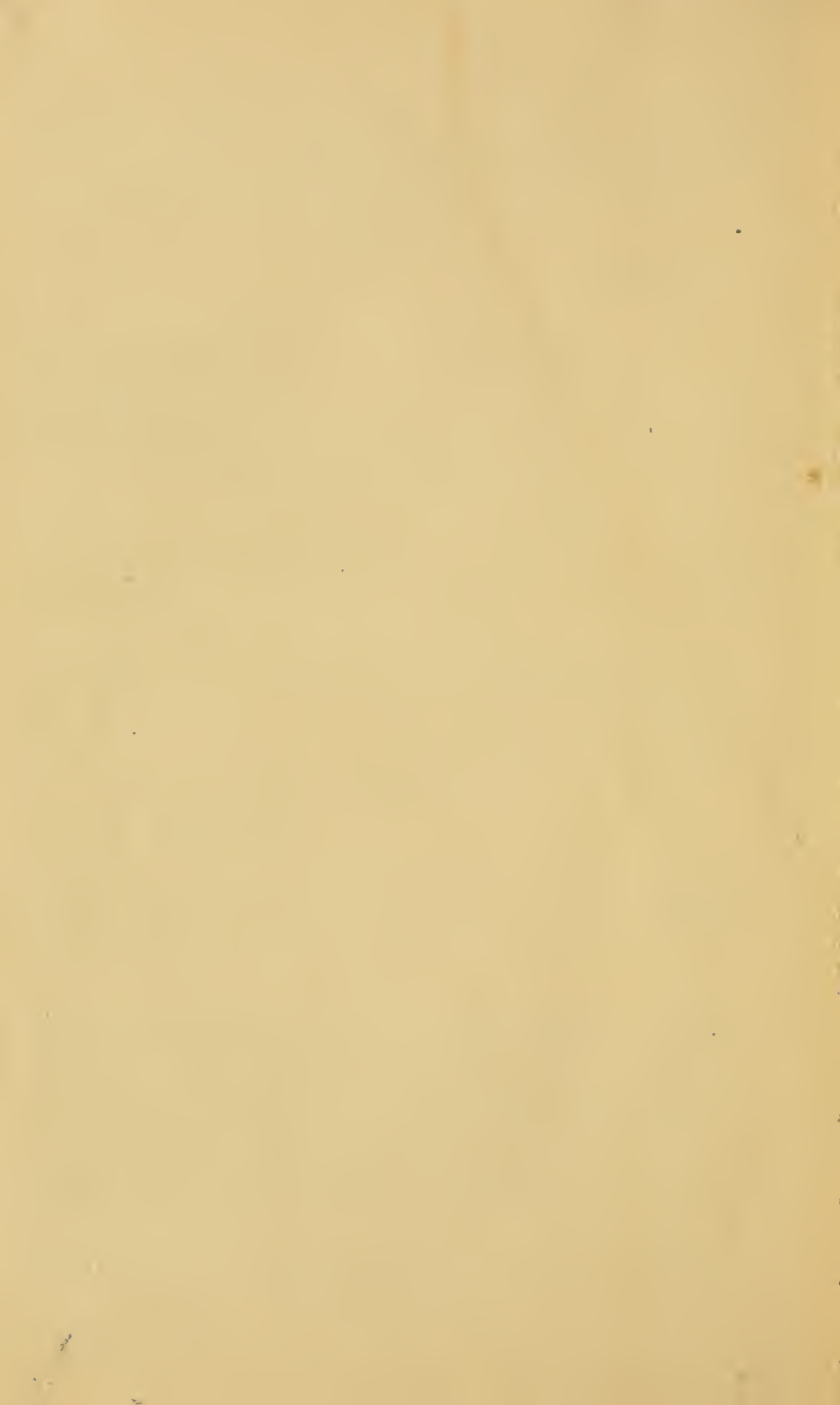
The adoption of either scheme A or scheme B would result successfully both from a practical and an architectural standpoint. It is the opinion, however, of all those who have examined into the subject that the hemicycle scheme, "A," offers the best possible result.

Very respectfully,

ELLIOTT WOODS,
Superintendent U. S. Capitol Building and Grounds.

THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

^a Omitted in printing.



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